The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and each other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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Has the Supreme Court Assumed More Control Over Labor?

The United States supreme court has smashed the Kansas "can't-strike" law by annulling the industrial court's power to set wages and enforce its decisions.

On its surface, this is a distinct advance, and supports labor's fight against a vicious proposal. But it would be well if labor examined the reasoning of the court and compared same with the court's decision nullifying the District of Columbia women's minimum wage law.

In the latter case the court declared itself sternly against setting wages by law.

The court said that if a women's minimum wage law is justified "in the face of the guaranties of the fifth amendment," the "field for the operation of the police power will have widened to a great and dangerous degree."

This sounds like the final word against setting wages by law, but in the Kansas case the court now says:

> "The extent to which regulation may reasonably go varies with different kinds of business. The regulation of rates to avoid monopoly is one thing. The regulation of wages is another. A business may be of such character that only the first is permissible, while another may involve such a possible danger of monopoly on the one hand, and such disaster from stoppage on the other, both to the public and the public concern and power of regulation.

Compare this with the court's clear-cut opposition to a law that would guarantee working women a living wage.

In the women's case the court was definite. In the Kansas case the court let it be understood its decision against wages by law is not its last word.

The court hints (in the Kansas case) that workers may organize to the point of "a possible danger" of "disaster from stoppage." In that event, says the court, wages by law would "come within the public concern and power of regulation."

In the District of Columbia case the court let it be known that it does not fear the organized economic power of working women, who can do little harm to big business and gigantic monopolies.

The court, in effect, declared there is no such fear in the case of women working in stores and restaurants. They can not challenge monopoly, as can men workers in the steel or mining industry, for instance.

In reversing the wages feature of the Kansas law the court let it be known that at some future time, and under different conditions, wages by law could be legalized.

That portion of the Kansas decision may prove a pathbreaker. It may pave the way for future action by the court to uphold wages by law when the issue is not involved with price fixing on the goods business men sell.

This can be done, the court shows, when there is "a possible danger" of "disaster from stoppage." Then "regulation of wages" will be legalized.

Labor must not overlook the importance of the court's quiet intimation that it will "regulate" wages under certain conditions.

The court is not sensational when it assumes new powers. It never alarms the populace.

When John Marshall ruled in the Marbury case, more than 100 years ago, that the supreme court can pass on acts of congress, the decision did not alarm the populace, and it was not used for years. But it was not forgotten by those who profit by court usurpation.

KANSAS WAGE LAW IS OUTLAWED NOTHING LEFT OF ALLEN'S PLAN

Washington, June 16.—By outlawing the wage-fixing clause of the Kansas industrial court law, the United States supreme court has demolished the whole prop of this travesty on democracy.

The decision was made in the case of the Wolff packing company of Topeka, which appealed from a decision of the industrial court. The industrial court ordered wages of the employes increased and the company refused to obey. The state supreme court upheld the industrial court. The company carried the case to the United States supreme court, which now holds that the fixing-of-wages section of the act is in violation of the fourteenth amendment, and is therefore unconstitutional.

The decision was unanimous, and was handed down by Chief Justice Taft, who upheld the recent women's minimum wage decision that there is no such thing as "absolute freedom of contract," and that while it is subject to a variety of restraints, "they must not be arbitrary or unreasonable."

"Freedom of contract is the general rule and restraint the exception," said the chief justice, "and the authority to interfere or abridge can be justified only by exceptional circumstances."

Under this rule mere declaration by a legislature that a business is affected with a public interest is not enough to warrant whether the attempted regulation on that ground is justified.

The court denied that the preparing of food, and other industrial activities are "clothed with a public interest." This is the basis for the Kansas law, and the term "clothed with a public interest" has been used by every handcuffer in the land who has urged other states to adopt the Kansas law.

"To say that a business is clothed with a public interest is not to determine what regulation may be permissible in view of the private rights of the owner. The extent to which an inn or a cab system may be regulated may differ widely from that allowable as to a railroad or other common carrier. It is not a matter of legislative discretion solely. It depends on the nature of the business, on the character of the facilities it offers, and on the abuses reasonably to be feared.

"The extent to which regulation may reasonably go varies with different kinds of business.

"The regulation of rates to avoid monopoly is one thing. The regulation of wages is another. A business may be of such character that only the first is permissible, while another may involve such a possible danger of monopoly on the one hand, and such disaster from stoppage on the other, that both come within the public concern and power of regulation."

The Kansas law was passed three years ago. Governor Allen assumed authorship of the act, which is as old as history. Allen used the methods of a circus agent to further his personal fortunes. He was considered a vice presidential possibility. But the present dominate party, and was the darling of every cheap wage employer. Since his retirement as governor of Kansas he has been on the lecture platform, and is now telling citizens of small towns how the "savey" Kansas during the miners' national strike. He is no longer given full page mention in the daily press, and the supreme court's decision makes him a "dud."

R. R. RUMP "UNION" DOESN'T FOOL LABOR

Altoona, Pa., June 16.—This city, the home of huge shops of the Pennsylvania railroad, laughs at the claim of railroads officials regarding their company "union."

Shop men scoff at the system, which is so palpably a front office device. A ballot is now being taken for members of the committee that is supposed to represent employes, but the enthusiasm is all in the minds of railroad officials, publicity agents and their controlled newspapers.

The recent refusal of the company to permit railroad clerks to select their own representatives has again exposed the purposes of the company "union." Workers declare the plan would be overwhelmingly rejected if the management would permit employes to have a free ballot on the question.

Every effort is being made by the management to popularize the "union" with employes. These efforts, however, defeat their purpose, as they call attention to the company's control of its hand-picked "union."

The Labor News, published in this city, declares that reports issued by the company on the present ballot are smoke screens. Attention is called to the omission of all figures.

Besides, who is to know what the result really is, and even if the "rumps" might have received a big vote it does not signify that they want the free expression of the employes."

The labor paper says that the same old tactics are being used to get "voted" that were used before when railroad officials wanted employes to "vote" on some proposition.

SEGEDING UNIONISTS FAWN BEFORE BOSSES

Raleigh, N. C., June 16.—The fraternizing of a group of seceding textile workers and union textile employers in this section has scandalized wage earners.

The secessionists were originally members of the United Textile Workers of America. Now they belong to the illegal Fall River Union. They are the organizers.

A delegation of them have been traveling through the south on a so-called tour of investigation. This appears to be under the direction of a Fall River newspaper.

The secessionists were wined and dined at various points by members of Rotary clubs, manufacturers' associations and similar bodies. They are quoted in daily press as favoring the company "union" of the Dan river cotton mills, Danville, Va. This company is about the last word in autocracy. It provides for the election of a "lower house," a term all, to be known as "higher house," and a supreme court. The workers elect to the "lower house," and the foremen and superintendents elect to the "higher house." If these two branches can not agree, the matter is referred to the "supreme court," which is composed of the manager and stockholders.

It is charged that the leader of the secessionists has informed manufacturers in the Carolinas that he can organize them on a better way to fight trade unionism than hiring detectives. He is urging them to order their overseers to get their workers from independent unions and split those that are now organized. It is possible get them to join the Fall River secessionists. The argument the overseers will use is that if the workers must join a union, let them affiliate with a cheap union, a southern union, so that all the money may remain in the south.

MINIMUM WAGE LAW GETS UNEXPECTED BUMP

Boston, June 16.—The publisher of the Boston Transcript has been fined $100 in the municipal court for refusing to print a report of the Massachusetts minimum wage commission. The decision has been appealed and because of the constitutional points involved, the case will undoubtedly go up to the supreme court.

The minimum wage commission has no authority to enforce its decisions, which are supposed to depend upon the power of public opinion. The law empowers the commission to publish the names of firms that refuse to accept its wage awards. This procedure has been followed as a matter of form, but a snag was struck in the case of the L. F. Hollander company, dealers in fashionable wearing apparel for Boston's exclusive set.

The commission found that this concern was paying less than the minimum wage of $9 a week for beginners, $11 for those of experience and $14 for experienced women and girls.

The commission's announcement was printed in other Boston daily papers, but the Transcript refused on the ground that it might lay the paper open to civil action. The transcript also claims that the legislature has no right to say what a paper shall publish.

The case will be carried through the courts for years and unless they organize the women and girls involved will be paid the same sweat shop wages the commission has failed to end.

HIGH COURT IGNORED; TWO DECISIONS CLASH

St. Paul, Minn., June 16.—The federal circuit court of appeals has approved the order of the interstate commerce commission giving the Southern Pacific railroad control over the Central Pacific railroad.

The decision is based on the transportation act and the supreme court decision is based on the Sherman anti-trust law. The transportation act permits railroad combinations and the anti-trust law declares they are illegal.

After a 10-years' fight, the government won its point last October that the railroads were combined in violation of the anti-trust law. Southern Pacific attorneys then asked the interstate commerce commission to approve the combination under the transportation act. The commission granted the request and the circuit court of appeals upholds this action while under orders of the United States supreme court to dissolve the combination. The situation is unique in court history.

The court of appeals decision clears up the status of $250,000,000 in securities that were affected by the supreme court's order,to dissolve.

GIANT COMBINATIONS STANDARDIZE WORKERS

Montreal, June 16.—To crush out the individuality of the workman is fatal to human progress, declared Robert B. Wall, New York engineering and industrial scientist, in an address at the spring meeting of the American society of mechanical engineers.

"It is also fatal to destroy the individuality of our manufacturing or producing units," said Mr. Wall, who was a member of the Herbert Hoover committee on elimination of waste in industry of the federated American engineering societies.

"In the past, men have combined into groups for protective purposes, but never before have we seen such grouping of groups, and these larger groups into still larger economic units. The startling fact is that most of this has taken place within the lifetime of the men who are still in active charge of industry.

"What is the meaning of it all, and what is the purpose of this dominant man in the process? This I believe to be the most momentous problem confronting modern civilization, for if it is not solved civilization as now constituted can not last.

"The answer must be understood. The whole problem of industry is resolved into finding how to enable the built individual—the man—to become conscious of his relationship to the all-including group individual, the plant.

"The secret seems to lie in stimulating group consciousness within the plant. . . . Men will respond unconsciously recording the group's relationship to the whole, as note one the sense of the common, and the immediate need seems to be for the education of foremen to intelligently direct the groups."

KNOW CAUSE OF SELLING DEATH

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 16.—A jury has acquitted two private guards who were charged with the murder of Mrs. Fannie Sellins, organizer of the United Mine Workers, and Joseph Strzelecki, a striking miner. The shooting was at Natrona, near here, at the mines of the Allegheny coal and coke company on August 26, 1919. The jury said the deaths were the result of a battle between strike guards and miners.

The prosecution produced photographs taken just before the shooting to sustain its claim that the firing was unprovoked, and that the miners were not in a hostile attitude.

James Oates, organizer of the United Mine Workers, testified that the strikers and their wives were orderly and were joking with the strike guards before the tragedy. The organizer said he went to Natrona with Mrs. Sellins and when shots were heard she hurried up the hill to protect the women and children. The witness identified one of the accused guards as the man who shot Strzlecki in the back.

Organizer Oates testified that Justice of the Peace Conway called him to the top of a hill with him to identify the murderers, and he finally induced the chief of the county detectives to visit the scene of the shooting.

Numerous strikers testified regarding the inaction of officials and the brutality of mine guards toward citizens.

LONG HOURS HARMLESS, SAYS STEEL TRUST HEAD

New York, June 16.—Judge Gary can see no difference between a 12-hour day in one of his steel infernos and a 12-hour day in his home in a luxuriously fitted office, with a trip to the Canadian woods in the summer and the Florida everglades in the winter to recuperate. Judge Gary, himself, has just returned from a trip to Europe on one of the world's floating palaces.

This is what the judge said at the annual meeting of the trust's stockholders, April 17, 1922:

"I am not certain that in most cases it is a hardship rather than a benefit to a workman to refuse to allow him to work 12 hours a day when the fact is that he wants and does injure us to him, and when he desires to work longer and earn more money.

"Nine hours for the directors' meeting."

Mssrs. Harding and Johnins were recorded by Justices Holmes, McReynolds and Brandeis. The latter declared that the Kansas law is in the common cause of the constitution "to prevent a state from making experiments at the expense of tants in the enjoyment of its natural resources."

"I think that the products of a state, until they are actually started to a point beyond the borders of the state, notwithstanding the commerce clause," said Justice Brandeis.

ANOTHER UNION BANK.

St. Louis, Mo., June 16.—The Telegraphers' Union of St. Louis has started the latest banking venture of organized labor. It is owned by the Order of Railroad Telegraphers and opened its doors on the thirty-seventh anniversary of the organization of the union. Seventy per share of stock sold was to a member of the order of the union. The maximum dividend on the share would be limited to 10 per cent. The president of the bank is E. J. Manion, president of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers. Cashier is Leonard Jackson Ross, secretary-treasurer of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers. The organization is affiliated with the A. F. of L.

URGE SUGAR BOYCOTT.

Chicago, June 16.—The secretary of the city council high cost committee urges women to boycott sugar. He calls for the consumption of sugar. He says there are 864,000,000 pounds of sugar stored in one warehouse in this city.

GUN MEN ACQUITTED OF SELLINS' DEATH

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WORKERS ARE DIVIDED BY ANCIENT METHODS

Chicago, June 16.—"The sooner workers think in friendly fashion in terms of all others who work, the sooner they will stop cheap-john manufacturers from adding to their over-stuffed bank rolls," said President Perkins of the Cigarmakers' International union, writing in the Cigar Makers' Official Journal.

In a spirited article the trade unionist declares that big interests have always resorted "to the time-worn but altogether too effective policy and method of keeping workers divided and fighting among themselves."

"In a recent trip through the south I found that in many places the white line, and especially the color line, was tightly drawn. From the public platform I made bold enough to say to them: 'For eight hours per day you sit beside one who through accident of birth is of different nativity and has a different complexion. You do this as a matter of fact with no thought of the color line, but when it comes to meeting with these same people in your trade union meeting for an hour or two in the evening once a month, the color line is immediately raised.

"If the working men and women of a different race and color are good enough to make profits for their employer for eight hours a day, they are good enough to sit beside and work with you for an hour in the trade union meeting for the purpose of getting better wages for you."

FOOD PRICES GO UP

Washington, June 16.—Fifteen of the 22 cities reporting food costs to the United States bureau of labor statistics showed increase during the month of April 15 to May 15, last. Philadelphia led with 2 per cent increase, followed by Baltimore, Bridgeport, Butte, Cleveland, Louisville, Norfolk and San Francisco, 1 per cent. The following cities showed less than five-tenths of 1 per cent: Indianapolis, Little Rock, New Haven, Omaha, Pittsburgh, Providence, and Yonkers, Me.

For the year period, May 15, 1923, to May 15, 1923, 21 of the 22 cities reported these increases: Bridgeport, 8 per cent; Cleveland and Pittsburgh, 7 per cent; Boston and New Haven, 6 per cent; Manchester, Newark, Philadelphia, Providence and Rochester, 5 per cent; Buffalo, Fall River and Indianapolis, 4 per cent; Baltimore, Louisville and San Francisco, 3 per cent; Little Rock, 2 per cent; Butte, Memphis, Norfolk and Omaha, per cent. Richmond decreased less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

NEW STEEL RECORD.

New York, June 16.—Production of steel ingots last month aggregated 4,327,853 tons, a new high record for all time, according to reports filed with the American iron and steel institute by 20 companies which last year produced 84.13 per cent of the country's total. The figures compare with 3,321,278 tons in April and 2,711,141 tons in May last year.

This record production was reached when operations were shrieked that a "labor shortage" makes large production impossible.

STREET CAR MEN TO MEET

Oakland, Cal., June 16.—The eighteenth convention of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America will convene in this city on September 10 next.

COSTS OF GOVERNING REACH RECORD HEIGHT

Minneapolis, June 16.—Costs of governing the American people has reached appalling figures, according to a letter from President Harding to Professor M. B. Lambie of the university of Minnesota.

The chief executive stated that the census bureau prepared the figures for him, and show, for example, that revenues from all sources of the state governments for 1913 aggregated $368,000,000 and in 1921 $959,000,000, an increase of 161 per cent. Expenditures arose from $346,000,000 for 1913 to $1,005,000,000 in 1921, an increase of 163 per cent. Indebtedness increased from $223,000,000 in 1913 to $1,012,000,000 in 1921, an increase of 130 per cent.

"The figures hardly require comment because they demonstrate so conclusively, it seems to me, that costs of state government are rising at a rate which at least justifies the most serious consideration," said the president.

"Along with the foregoing date regarding the cost of state governments, the census bureau has collated some figures on the increase in cost of city governments. These figures are based on the returns of the government of the largest cities in the country.

"It is shown that for cities in this group revenues in 1913 amounted to $890,000,000 and in 1921 $1,567,000,000, an increase of 76 per cent. For the same group expenditures were $1,010,000,000 in 1913 and in 1921 $1,736,000,000, an increase of 71 per cent. Aggregate indebtedness of 1913 was $2,901,000,000 and in 1921 $4,334,000,000, an increase of 49 per cent."

MEAT TRUST NOT A TRUST

Chicago, June 16.—The meat trust that has been formed by the Armour and Morris plants is not a trust, according to a statement issued by the former in connection with the government's suit. The federal trade commission and other government officials oppose the trust. The only exception is Attorney General Daugherty. Now the Armour concern, which has swallowed the Morris company, declares that the latter concern was taken over "in the interest of producers and consumers."

The public is assured that price control is something that has never been thought of. Their sole desire is to serve the public.

TERMINAL WORKERS OUT.

New York, June 16.—An anti-union policy at the Bush terminal has forced 350 clerks and freight handlers to abandon work. They are members of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks and Freight Handlers.

Irving T. Bush is president of the terminal company. He is president of the state chamber of commerce.

ORANGE HATTERS STRIKE.

Newark, N. J., June 16.—More than 2,000 employes of the Orange valley hat factories are on strike for higher wages. Local hatters may also join the strike if their demands are unsatisfied.

SHIP OWNER'S ANARCHY IS PROVEN BY HIMSELF

San Francisco, June 16.—"Captain Robert Dollar, self-appointed spokesman for would-be disrupters of organized labor in San Francisco, has again broken into print," says the labor men's Journal.

The captain prides himself on his anti-unionism. He is a loyal admirer of coolie labor, which he employs on his ships whenever possible.

"According to the New York Herald, Dollar addressed the conservative and eminently respectable national manufacturers' association and actually gloated over an anarchistic speech made by himself at a meeting in San Francisco several years ago.

"Dollar's business associates have often attempted to deny it, but the old man has now said it all over again.

"Please note that Robert Dollar, who is a recognized pillar in western anti-union business circles, points out in these facts:

"1. That he urged his associates to send striking seamen back to the receiving hospital.

"2. That he was a member of a committee of business men who interviewed the district attorney of San Francisco and threatened to bring him to a telegraph pole unless he got their bidding.

"Talk about the maintenance of law and order! Talk about the menace of anarchy and bolshevism! What can we expect from recent arrivals in our country when the head of a great industry like Robert Dollar sets a shameful example in urging violence and lynch law?"

NEW SHIPPING PLAN.

Washington, June 16.—In the event the government fails to interest private capital in government vessels and trade routes, Chairman Lasker has recommended to President Harding that 12 to 18 subsidiary corporations be created by the United States fleet corporation. These corporations will consolidate the existing freight lines and will operate about 200 ships.

Chairman Lasker says the shipping board will then have on hand 1,500 ships plus steel ships. Several hundred of these are unfit for service, and it is recommended that they be scrapped and the remainder sold.

Mr. Lasker announced his retirement as chairman of the shipping board. His tenure of office was marked by a series of financial scandals and by subsidy. The administration brought every force in its power to support the measure, but it was rejected by congress.

NO LABOR SCARCITY CRY?

New York, June 16.—The Baldwin locomotive works has increased its force 20 per cent of its capacity, according to the Wall Street Journal. The editor fails to draw the moral that a labor scarcity is responsible for this 5 per cent increase. A perfect "labor shortage" is the public is informed that 100 per cent production will be reached when machine tools to the value of $1,000,000 are received.

HUGE TEXTILE PROFITS.

Gastonia, N. C., June 16.—The Trenton cotton mills have declared a 50 per cent dividend, bringing the capitalization up to $250,000. Stockholders have ordered that an application be made that the capital stock be extended to $750,000.

The Trenton concern started in 1894. The plant has frequently been improved as a result of plowing earnings back into the company.

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FILM PRICES INCREASED.

New York, June 16.—At hearings held by the federal trade commission it was shown that the Famous Players-Lasky corporation increased prices 400 per cent to motion picture exhibitors, of which the producers are getting $90,000,000. "The rules in the case," certain producers indicates that they are out to get an exhibitor dangerous tion," said Mr. Farrington.

The commission is investigating the charge that motion picture producing companies have established a "complete monopoly.

NICKEL TRUST PROSPERS.

New York, June 16.—Last year the International Nickel company reports a deficit of $791,745 the previous year into a net profit of $47,176. This profit is announced after salaries and official and subsistantial amounts are set aside for depreciation and depletion, and all taxes are paid.

OHIO OFFICERS REJECT ANTI-UNION TACTICS

Charleston, W. Va., June 16.—Governor Donahey of Ohio has refused to order the imprisonment of a Logan county union miner who is charged with crime. The anti-union coal owners are not advertising their rebuff, but the governor is quoted as saying:

"Return Holt to Logan county? Why, I would just as soon send him before a kangaroo court. It is notorious fact that in Logan county miners are killed indiscriminately, that farcical trials are held at which the jurors are made up of paid thugs."

The coal owners received another rebuff from an operator named Alfred Belcher, counsel for the Logan county coal operators' association, called on the district attorney at Pomeroy, Ohio, and offered to "assist" him in the trial of Holt. The miner, who shot and killed Ed Reynolds, notorious strike guard and deputy sheriff, is attempted to enter the miner's cabin.

Belcher, it was learned, intimidate that the state of Ohio is proud of her heritage; that no man, regardless of his wealth or influence, can intimidate a state government in this the general section of the United States.

"I also told Belcher that it would be a pity if the citizens of Logan county and apply for statehood in these United States," Governor Donahey said.

"And I further told him that West Virginia is a state where people live where private interests are permitted to underwrite state prosecutions and where the regular constituted authorities are thrust aside by powerful corporations.

"Miller will be tried here as a free American citizen and not as a slave or servant, and if his story is true that he simply protected him home against the invaders' grogan thugs he will be acquitted.

"We don't resort to purchased testimony or other methods similarly degrading to try men charged with crime in Ohio. Neither do we return wholesale indictments against men and then attempt to use these indictments as clubs to obtain 'favorable' testimony by promising immunity."

FOREMEN'S CONTRACT CAN'T BIND WORKERS

New York, June 16.—The flimsy evidence on which labor injunctions are based was illustrated in the opinion rendered by Maurice Wormser, editor of the New York Law Journal, who dismissed the anti-labor suit involving striking leather workers.

The company secured an injunction on the grounds that unions were said to be causing employes to violate their contract. The referee found that the contracts were void under the Sherman law and that this was supposed to stop the strikers from even speaking to the strikebreakers.

The referee said "there can not be any question that the alleged agreements, assuming for argument that they amount to contracts, can not bind any of the workers with the possible exception of the six foremen or supervisors who are claimed to have entered into them."

WAGE EARNERS' STRIKES CAUSE LEAST DAMAGE

New York, June 16.—Strikes of wage earners are "the least extensive and destructive of the entire round of stoppages," declared George E. Soule of the labor bureau, inc., at the annual meeting of the national monetary association.

"The greatest damages," he said, "is probably done by the periodic strikes of the investors in new capital goods, though the immediate damage caused by the strikes of recently 'given' productive capital already invested is more evident. We also have occasional strikes of buyers, of traders and even of farmers."

SLEEP IN HAY STACKS.

San Francisco, June 16.—The Labor Clarion calls the attention of the immigration and housing commission to conditions in the hay fields of the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys, where workers are forced to sleep in hay stacks. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Paul Scharrenberg, secretary of the state federation of labor, heads the commission. The unionist held this non-salaried position for years and has been instrumental in forcing growers to improve conditions for seasonal workers.

The labor paper declares that lack of harvest workers sleep in shocks of hay or grain because there is no other place of shelter is provided them.

"Haying is the hardest kind of work, yet the men who do it are under the necessity of sleeping in the field instead of in a comfortable bed at home," of course, that it is easy enough for one to say that they could do it when they therefore do not mind it. The truth is no one ever becomes so well acquainted with misery that he likes it. But the conditions of affairs should be altered at the earliest possible date."

STATE COLLECTS WAGES.

Sacramento, Cal., June 16.—Wage claims to the amount of $10,000 filed by the state labor department in the last two years. Most of this money would be lost to workers but for the vigilance of state officials. The workers also saved approximately $45,000 in legal fees.

BUTCHERS RAISE WAGES

Peoria, Ill., June 16.—Butcher workmen employed by the E. Godel & Son packing company have raised wages $3 a week.

MUSSOLINI'S WOES HAVE JUST STARTED

New York, June 16.—Cables from Italy indicate that troubles are multiplying for Mussolini and his blackshirted fascists.

Added to these troubles are internal divisions with their expulsions and leaders' quarrels and bickerings. The fascist now declares it must "purge itself of the less desirable elements" but these elements that destroyed trade union halls and co-operative stores refuse to be ousted and the black shirts are losing control of their movement and lowering the power of fascism because of this loss of discipline.

Mussolini favors a new election in the hope that his shirted army will be indorsed. But again his troubles increase because of the opposition of proportional representation. This is another manifestation of Mussolini's contempt for everything parliamentary or democratic.

Manchester, England, June 16.—Because Mussolini can not make his followers be orderly he is confronted with one of the most difficult problems of people who employ disorder to obtain power, says the Manchester Guardian, one of Britain's progressive newspapers.

"In almost every part of Italy Mussolini has organized bands of terrorists, now that they have assaulted and intimidated enough people to make the dictator, persist in assaulting and intimidating more and more people, and one another, without the virtuous motive to justify them any longer. It is the old vicious circle. Private bands of guards and other human instruments made by masterful men are always apt to govern other persons without their consent.

Signor Mussolini is stated to have expressed intense annoyance at finding that fascists have recently given way to personal animosities, insubordination and violence, which are totally at variance with their leader's fundamental principles." But are they really at variance?

"Would it be unfair to say that in trying to save the state from anarchy by breaking one another's heads, the 'national' element in the Mussolini party are acting faithfully in the spirit of its founder, whatever may be the letter of the orders that he now finds it prudent to give?"